

HONORING KEITH WOODS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Keith Woods. Keith Woods has left the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce where he served with distinction—and flair—for 13 years. During his tenure, Mr. Woods made the Chamber into one of the most active in the state with a broad diversity of programs including classes, a speaker series, connections with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the creation of the popular Wednesday Night Market.

Keith's strong leadership in the business community and his well-known sense of humor have earned him a national reputation. He is known for the quick quips and insightful jabs that at various times run the gamut from self-depreciation to stinging sarcasm. He is Santa Rosa's toastmaster as well as the city's master of the roast.

He has also been honored three times by the California Association of Chambers of Commerce, including an award for Executive Director of the Year. Even beyond California's borders, Mr. Woods has had an impact, spreading the word at national chamber events about the importance of community involvement.

With Keith Woods at the helm of the Santa Rosa Chamber, there was always excitement, enthusiasm and new ideas in the business community. Thanks to Keith, it was never simply "business as usual." It is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Keith. I am very proud to be representing him.

TRIBUTE TO PASSAIC VALLEY
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the storied history of an important school in my district, Passaic Valley Regional High School in the Township of Little Falls, New Jersey. Saturday, September 16, 2000 marked the 60th anniversary of this fine institution of learning. It is only fitting that this school be honored, for it has a long history of caring and commitment to its students and the community at-large.

Passaic Valley Regional High School was recognized for its many years of leadership in Little Falls, which I have been honored to represent in Congress since 1997, and so it is only appropriate that these words are immortalized in the annals of his greatest of all freely elected bodies.

Passaic Valley Regional High School opened its doors on September 16, 1940, to some 610 students from Totowa, West Paterson and Little Falls, New Jersey. The school is governed by the Passaic Valley Regional High School, District #1 Board of Education which is composed of nine Board members from the three towns.

As a school committed to the development of well-rounded students, Passaic Valley has

added many other programs to augment its strong academic curriculum. These include a wide range of athletic, musical and literary activities, which are designed to stimulate and encourage the individual growth of each student.

It should be noted that the remarkable success of the Passaic Valley Regional High School is due to its community support. The Passaic Valley Regional High School, District #1 Board of Education, school administration, teachers and friends of the school have aided and fostered its growth and development. Thanks to the help of these individuals and the collective of their efforts this school is now a stellar force in the community.

I applaud the many outstanding and invaluable contributions that this school has given to the community. Education is one of the cornerstones of our culture. This wonderful school has added much to the rich history of the State of New Jersey, and we all should be proud that we are able to celebrate a day in its honor.

Mr. Speaker, as a former educator in New Jersey, I can say that I can think of no other school or faculty that works harder or care more about the students. Perhaps the greatest tribute Passaic Valley Regional High School is success of its former students. Alumni from this prestigious high school have risen to prominence in a variety of fields.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Township of Little Falls, Passaic County, the State of New Jersey, the students, teachers, staff, Principal, Passaic Valley Regional High School, District #1 Board of Education, Superintendent and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community and the 6th anniversary of Passaic Valley Regional High School.

NORTH COAST HEALTH MINISTRY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize North Coast Health Ministry for their exemplary work in helping the uninsured and underinsured access health care services. As a volunteer organization, it fills an important need in my district for thousands of working families.

North Coast Health Ministry operates clinics that are staffed by physicians, nurses and other staff who volunteer their time and services to provide comprehensive health care services. Started in 1986, NCHM has established relationships with health care professionals and three local hospitals to treat referred patients when they need additional care and treatment, including surgery and recovery.

Since its inception, it has linked with other free clinics in the area to establish the Ohio Association of Free Clinics. This expanded network improves access to health care for the working poor throughout the state. Through the determination and initiative of the NCHM, the Ohio Association was recently awarded a \$600,000 grant to continue and expand its services.

I ask my colleagues to rise in recognizing the exemplary efforts of the North Coast Health Ministry and the many volunteers who

have contributed to it. I commend them for their kind works and congratulate them on their grant.

REPUBLICANS GIVE \$200 MILLION
GIFT TO DRUG INDUSTRY**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare bill before us gives a \$200 million gift to the nation's drug manufacturers—undoubtedly a pay-off for the industry's massive, \$80 million contribution to the Republicans and Governor Bush.

In section 429, as passed by the House, and in the versions of the bill circulating as late as December 12, Medicare was prohibited from either increasing or decreasing the rates of reimbursement for drugs. This section blocked an effort by the Justice Department, the HHS Office of the Inspector General and Medicare to save the taxpayer hundreds of millions of dollars a year in overpayments. CBO scored the blockage as costing about \$200 million. To offset the cost, the original bill, as passed by the House, also blocked drug companies from increasing their charges to Medicare.

Sometime between December 12th and last evening, someone in the Speaker's office or the Senate Majority Leader's office dropped the word "increase"—thus allowing the drug companies and doctors who profiteer from huge mark-ups on drugs to continue to rip-off patients and taxpayers. The bill before us now only blocks the cuts in reimbursement that had been recommended by the Department of Justice.

What a travesty. Senator McCain is right: it is way way past time for campaign finance reform.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
DEIDRA HAIR**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a distinguished friend, Judge Deidra Hair, who will step down from her service on the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court on December 31, 2000.

In 1995, the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court was founded as Ohio's first drug court. Judge Hair, who helped to establish the drug court, has tirelessly handled about 1,500 cases each year. Her court has become a model across Ohio, and since 1995, ten additional courts in Ohio have been crafted in its likeness.

The goal of the drug court is to rehabilitate substance abusers and keep them out of court and out of prison. Those arrested on drug abuse charges or those who commit a non-violent felony under the influence of drugs may have their case heard by the drug court. Using strict criteria, the court may accept applicants who do not have a violent criminal background and who have committed a low-